

Bush Briefs Carter, Fritz on National Security

By JEROME CAHILL

Plains, Ga., July 28—CIA Director George Bush and a team of top U. S. intelligence experts flew here today on two Army helicopters to give a top-secret briefing on national security matters to Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter and his running mate, Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota.

"The President has, instructed me to give a full briefing, not holding back on any items of intelligence, and that's the way it will be," Bush said after his helicopter deposited him on a grassy airstrip three miles outside of Plains shortly before the session began this afternoon.

At Carter's request, the briefing concentrated on the strategic balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union. Also covered were security issues relating to China, Lebanon, Rhodesia, the Middle East and South Korea. It will be followed by a second, more detailed briefing here in the second week of August.

Government intelligence briefing of presidential candidates have become a fixture of presidential campaigns in the postwar era and are designed to help non-incumbents lacking access to regular intelligence data from blundering into sensitive areas.

Jimmy Carter's economic strategy envisions an aggressive White House role of the kind used by President Johnson in promoting employment and holding down prices. See Capitol Stuff on Page 62.

Quoting Yogi Berra's remark about having once made "the wrong mistake," Bush said that the more information a presidential candidate has on intelligence matters "the better it is."

"A Tough Business"

"Intelligence is a tough business, and it's just better to have our top people fully informed," Bush said. He said that the briefing would be "very detailed sticking on the main issues that he (Carter) is interested in."

The briefing took place at Carter's home on the outskirts of Plains, rather than at the Pond

House, a cottage in the pine forest several miles outside of town, where Carter and Mondale have received other briefings this week on defense issues and the economy. Carter aides said that the shift had been made at the request of the CIA because Carter's home was easier to safeguard from electronic eavesdroppers.

In discussing the briefing last night with reporters, Carter said that he asked the CIA to deal only with secret information and to exclude any material that was already part of the public record.

Asked whether as President he would appoint a professional intelligence expert or a politician to the top CIA post, Carter replied that his inclination would be to select someone of stature, unquestioned integrity and recognized analytical ability. But he said that did not mean that the director had to be with the CIA for 25 years.



Associated Press photo
CIA Director George Bush arriving in Plains to brief candidates.